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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/232,749	01/15/1999	RICHARD W. CROUCH	99-P-7424-US	1492

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09/06/2002

SIEMENS CORPORATION
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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHUC H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2664

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/232,749

Applicant(s)

CROUCH ET AL.

Examiner

PHUC H TRAN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1, 4, 7-9, & 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miloslavsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6175564 B1).

- With respect claims 1, 4, 7-9, & 13, Miloslavsky teaches a method and a system for processing calls in a telecommunication system (e.g. the system rout IPNT calls to agent station of Miloslavsky, col. 2, lines, 17-32), which comprises: a packet switch network (e.g. IPNT calls center) is H.323 (e.g. the IPNT system, see abstract for real time voice and video over network); receiving a first call at a telephony device on a network (e.g. steps 202 in Fig. 2); receiving a second call at the telephony device while the first call is being processed (see col. 7, lines 3-5); transferring the second call to a queue (e.g. steps 292 in Fig. 3) and determining a time which the calls are storing in the queue for allowing time (col. 10, lines 1-3); and transferring the second

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call back to the telephony devices after a predetermined condition or allowing time is met (see col. 10, lines 3-5), wherein the one or more queues define callable entities for the one or more telephony devices to forward the calls (col. 9, lines 59-61).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miloslavsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6175564 B1).

- With respect to claim 10, Miloslavsky discloses all the aspect of the claimed invention as set forth above but fails to teach the telephony devices is a hunt group proxy and the hunt group proxy processes the first call by searching for available hunt group member. However, it is a designed choice of inventors to use the hunt group proxy or a router (steps 270 in Fig. 3) to search for an available agent or member. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the hunt group proxy as a method processes incoming calls for searching available hunt group member or the router for looking an available agent.

5. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 11-12, 14, & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miloslavsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6175564 B1) in view of Naudus (U.S. Patent No. 6259691 B1).

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- With respect to claims 2, 5, 11-12, 14 & 18, Miloslavsky discloses all the aspect of the claimed invention as set forth above but fails to teach the packet switch network is H.323.

Naudus discloses the gatekeeper H.323 (Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention as made to implement the gatekeeper H.323 for exchanging compressed audio and/or video over networks in videoconferencing.

- With respect to claims 3 & 6, Miloslavsky teaches the one or more queues includes one or more timers for determining a predetermined delay during which time the calls are stored in the one more queues prior to forwarding back to the one more telephony devices (e.g. blocks 294, in Fig. 3)

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

- It's noted in the Applicant's remarks indicated, "Miloslavsky appears to relate merely to a router having a queue buffer. The queue does not appear to be a callable entity, as generally recited in the claims at issue" (page 3). The examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant. Miloslavsky teaches the ACD sends the call to a queue to wait for available station (col. 9, lines

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59-61 and step 292 in Fig. 3). Therefore, the queue of Miloslavsky also functions as the callable entity for temporary holding of calls for processing.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUC H TRAN whose telephone number is (703) 308-7471. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WELLINGTON CHIN can be reached on (703) 305-4366. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 872-9314.

Phuc Tran
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2664

P.t
August 27, 2002


RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER